

Brief

Student officers! We need your help in lobbying the government for a Student Safety Net. Find all the info you need on the [campaign hub here](#)! There are some useful tips for filming the video yourself and a simple script below.

Script

Section 1: What we know

Data from survey, key findings

The Coronavirus pandemic has wreaked havoc on our education. We, students are stuck in a financial storm, with our living situations and education severely disrupted and faced with the prospect of leaving education into the biggest recession we have seen for 80 years.

Select one option which you feel applies to your situation (or use your own examples...)

- Discuss the impact on student workers (e.g “When lockdown happened, many of us who work while we study lost our jobs which we rely upon to top-up the inadequate support we receive from maintenance loans. Now 80% of us are concerned about how we are going to manage financially during this crisis”)
- Talk about problems for student renters (for example, worries about paying rent at the moment and students not being let out of contracts)
- Talk about the concerns for international students (for example, “We are concerned about the implementation of a new visa system from January, many international students are experiencing issues with accommodation and accessing online content in their home countries”)
- Highlight the concerns that disabled students face (for example, “We do not have access to the assistive technology and other forms of support that we need to complete our studies, the online education provided is not adequate for our learning”)
- Discuss the issues faced by PGR students (for example, “We are concerned about whether our research funding will be extending and many of us are on casual teaching contracts that will mean our income is affected”)
- Highlight the concerns of Black students (e.g. Talk about increased risk of complications as a result of COVID-19 for Black students)
- Talk about concerns with predicted grades in FE, with Black students and disadvantaged students often being under predicted their grades
- Think about the problems faced by student parents (e.g: “Some of us have childcare and other caring responsibilities that mean we do not have time for education right now, or when we do it means studying on our sofas, beds or even in our cars in order to focus”)

- Put forward the particular impact on disadvantaged students (e.g. “For many of us, this means we are no longer able to access our education. Many of us do not have laptops or internet to attend online lectures and classes.”)

Section 2: What we are doing

Great work of SUs

Despite all of these issues, students’ unions have stepped up to help students get through this crisis, providing round-the-clock support.

Talk about the great work that your SU is doing to support students. This might be through...

- Supporting students to make applications to hardship funds and providing advice on other support that is available.
- Lobbying local employers to ensure that they furlough staff and providing advice on other support that is available.
- Working with institutions and local MPs to write to all local landlords and campaign for them to release our students from contracts.
- Securing funding for laptops, 4G dongles and other technology to enable students to continue their studies.
- Organising virtual welfare activities to support students.
- Implementing a no-detriment policy at your institution.

Section 3: What we need

Student Safety Net asks

But we need more help. We cannot solve these problems alone. We need a Student Safety Net!

We, alongside NUS, are asking for the chance to redo the year at no extra cost with full maintenance support. Reimbursement of fees or a debt write-off. A national hardship fund of £60M, available to all students in Higher education, Further education and apprentices. And an economic package to support graduates or education leavers with additional training and opportunity for skills development.

Section 4: Next steps for MPs

Make sure you share this video and other campaign resources – NUS has loads of information on their website. You could write to the Chancellor or Treasury to represent us and support the entire student movement – please publish and share this online.

Thank you!

Video guidance

- Make sure to shoot the video with your phone or camera in LANDSCAPE view, leaving adequate headspace (make sure you don't crop the top of your head from view) and space at the bottom of the shot where we can insert subtitles in post-production. Try to place yourself centrally on the screen.
- Make sure your set up has enough light - ensuring that any light is shining directly on you, not from behind you.
- Try to make sure there is not too much background noise or disturbance, if possible.

Once you have recorded the video, please send final version to comms@nus.org.uk – if your file is too large to attach in an email, please send via [WeTransfer](#).

Please also provide the following info:

- Name
- Students' Union
- Year of study & course
- Circumstance (if applicable) e.g. International student, Vocational student, Mature student, or belong to any Liberation group, etc.

